



# Minutes

## Commission on Sustainability

Tuesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018, 6:00 p.m.  
McCloskey Room, City Hall, 401 N. Morton

1. Call to Order
  - 6:03pm meeting called to order
2. Roll Call
  - Present: Gwen White (Chair), Nejla Routsong (Vice-Chair) Autumn Salamack (Liaison), Cheryl Bretheim, Olivia Ranseen, Teddie Mower, Jana McGee, Pam Weaver, Andrew Predmore, Erin Hatch, Dave Rollo (Councilor)
  - Absent: Chris Reinhart, Sneha Dave, Sheryl Woodhouse
3. Approval of Agenda
  - Pam motioned to approve, Olivia seconded. Unanimous voice vote yes. Agenda approved.
4. Approval of July Meeting minutes
  - Cynthia moved to approve July 10<sup>th</sup> minutes, Olivia seconded. Unanimous voice vote yes. July 10<sup>th</sup> minutes approved.
  - Dave moved to approve July 24<sup>th</sup> minutes, Olivia seconded. Unanimous voice vote yes. July 24<sup>th</sup> minutes approved.
  - Dave moved to approve August 14<sup>th</sup> minutes, Olivia seconded. Unanimous voice vote yes. August 14<sup>th</sup> minutes approved.
  - Cynthia moved to approve August 24<sup>th</sup> minutes, Olivia seconded. Unanimous voice vote to approve. August 24<sup>th</sup> minutes approved.
5. Announcements
  - Teddie: Climate Leadership Summit happening September 13<sup>th</sup> in Indianapolis. ScienceFest is happening October 27<sup>th</sup> at IU.
  - Andrew: Tomorrow (September 12<sup>th</sup>) is Big Red Eats Green, a local sustainable food fest on IU happening at the Conrad amphitheater from 11am-3pm. Collaboration between SustainIU, IU Dining, and the IU Food Institute. Additionally there is a performance at IU Cinema called Rising Tides about climate change, with First Thursday's also having activities around climate change and sustainability.

- Dave: Friends of Lake Monroe is working on getting support from local organizations and municipalities to apply for a 319 grant to hire a watershed coordinator. Tomorrow's Common Council has two items on agenda of interest: 1) a parking ordinance & 2) an amendment to title 11 in order to change the deer cull from using a hired firm to using hunters, the cost will be offset by a grant from the INDNR that the Parks and Recreation department received. Additionally, for BCOS, would like to add peak oil to a future BCOS agenda.
  - Gwen: We should brainstorm having events/talks/etc., to help us learn more about how the different departments or organizations work.
    - Olivia: Good Earth would be good to tour as well, as they take in IU's compost. Good to learn about composting at that scale.
    - Gwen: There is Good Earth and Green Earth, which one takes leaves from the city.
  - Pam: Bloomingfoods is having a new educational series on Wednesdays. Had first two quarters this year in the black in 15 quarters.
  - Erin: EcoLogic is closing it's retail nursery, as such is selling native plants for a discount price.
6. Public Comment
- a. No public comment.
7. Report from Autumn Salamack, Department of Economic and Sustainable Development
- Comment session for the SAP has closed, now going through these comments. Looking for areas with comments in alignment. Shooting for finalization 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> week of October. Then figure out timing for council presentation hoping for also in October. Contract with consultant Gnarly Tree concluded on September 30<sup>th</sup>.
  - Herald Times article about compost and Green Camino. Green Camino started a compost pilot program, took a resolution before public works to authorize Green Camino to allow them to take refuse from city users. As the existing code said only authorized haulers could take any refuse from citizens that are serviced by city sanitation. Resolution said it was open and available to other haulers, and authorized them to do this for a 2 year period.
    - Gwen: Is this a subscription service?
    - Autumn: Yes, you contact them and they offer a few types of subscriptions services for compost pick-up or drop off. They are a benefit corporation.
    - Olivia: They are just a hauling servicer, the compost itself is done by Fable Farms.
    - Dave: Is 40% of our current waste stream compostable?
    - Autumn: Yes, and I think ~27% food waste from the last waste audit. They are doing another evaluation on composting in particular.
    - Dave: Would it be possible for the city to provide at home composters?

- Autumn: We did talk about a wide array of composting options in the working groups for the SAP, individual composting solutions will depend on each person's situation.
    - Dave: It would be good to have the city involved as there is a learning curve, and people may be doing it incorrectly.
    - Erin: Parks and Rec actually hosted an educational program for the public about composting last year. Do not know if they are continuing that this year.
  - Attending Climate Leadership Summit and giving a presentation on Solarize Bloomington and how other communities can replicate it.
- 8. Report from Chair – UDO Module 2
  - a. Been Reading through the UDO Module 2. This is mainly about dimensional and design standards. They also made an amendment in regard to student housing in reply to comments from Module 1 about student housing. Very consistent on how they lay out each of these definitions and regulations.
    - Pam: Where do you find this?
    - Autumn: On the webpage on the Bloomington UDO Update. Encourage you to look at the incentives, landscaping, and biking sections. Affordable housing incentive can increase density and floor height. Sustainable incentives new is based on the newest version of LEED v4, the benefit is now increased density opportunity, increased floor height, and removal of fees and fines. Very tied to LEED, is this the best option, and should this just
    - Erin: These aren't much different from the previous incentive, which were not used much.
    - Pam: In the Landscaping section, we had a previous discussion to have incentives to plant with ones that are good for mitigating climate change.
    - Erin: There are lists of permitted and non-permitted plants already in the UDO.
    - Autumn: Tomorrow at 9am and 11:30am there are two meetings left. The public comment period is closing. There is a google form as well.
    - Olivia: Is there any way we could provide a statement for the last module?
    - Autumn: Haven't heard of another mechanism for feedback besides the stakeholders after the modules.
    - Gwen: Maybe we could put together a comprehensive comment or statement after the release of module 3.
    - Jana: Another section that's meaningful to look at and provide comments on is the Environmental standards section.
    - Autumn: There is some discussion on development within floodplains, which would be useful to examine in light of climate change.
    - Dave: I was involved in the initial creation of the landscaping plant list, and the permitted species included both those that speak to climate change, but also support pollinators, so the list was built upon a variety of interests.

- Erin: In the new UDO the floodplain is being changed to be less restrictive and matching the states regulations.
9. Commission strategic plan goals - updates
    - a. Sustainability Indicators
      - Still working on collecting data
    - b. Sustainability Awards (Document on Google Drive)
      - Autumn has made edits, but need more feedback. Want to start on this project soon.
      - Certification no new updates
    - c. Food Policy
      - No new updates
    - d. Climate Action
      - No new updates
    - e. Sustainable City Planning
      - No new updates
    - f. Collaboration
      - Haven't sent out collaboration invites yet.
  10. New Business
    - a. Gwen: Would like to revisit the strategic plan in January, to see what works and what doesn't.
    - b. Olivia: Maybe in the next work session maybe we could choose sections to comment on.
    - c. Dave Rollo: May be good to invite Bloomington Transit, to talk about their forward thinking for transit.
      - Teddie: Let's put you on the agenda for Oct 9<sup>th</sup> to talk about Peak Oil.
      - Cynthia: maybe with Bloomington Transit we could have a brainstorming session for changing the culture on bus ridership, and increase ridership.
      - Dave: We have kind of plateaued on ridership.
      - Autumn: Ridership leveling off is a trend across multiple cities.
  11. Adjournment
    - a. Dave moved to adjourn, Olivia seconded. Unanimous voice vote yes to adjourn. Adjourned at 7:27pm.

**Next Meeting:**

Work Session – September 25, 2018, McCloskey Room, City Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Auxiliary aids for people with disabilities are available upon request with adequate notice. Please call 812.349.3837.